













UNBREAKABLE





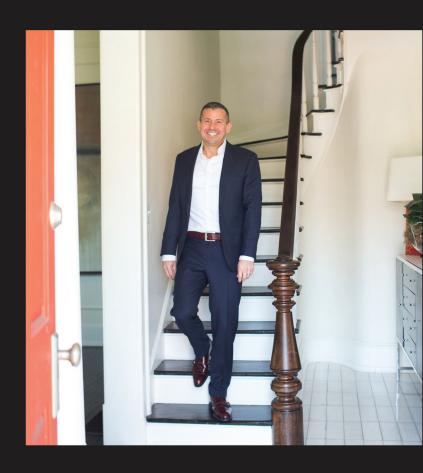








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Dear Friends,

We had originally planned to present Andrew Lippa's *Unbreakable* in June 2020. Now two years later we are at last able to present its east coast premiere live on the stage of the historic Lincoln Theatre. Thanks to the perseverance of our members and support from people like you, we are truly UNBREAKABLE.

Unbreakable will take you through over a century of events and brave individuals who stood up and spoke out way before their time, and often at great risk. The hard work continues today on the shoulders of the brave individuals represented in this show: Jane Addams, Cyril Wilcox, Sylvia Rivera, and Bayard Rustin, to name but a few. We raise our voice in gratitude for these social justice warriors who have come before us, and we raise our voice in support of those yet to experience full equality.

Thank you for joining us for this historical journey reminding us why we sing. We're glad you're here.



Thea Kano Artistic Director



Justin Fyala Executive Director





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UNBREAKABLE

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MICHAEL McGOVERN

ASSOCIATE CONDUCTOR
C. PAUL HEINS

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STAGE DIRECTOR
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BERNARD VICARY

LIGHTING DESIGN SOLOMON HAILESELASSIE

PROPS MASTER
JOHN GOODRICH

DANCE CAPTAIN
JAMES ELLZY

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
JARROD BENNETT

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SCENES & SONGS

UNBREAKABLE

Thea Kano, Conductor C. Paul Heins, Associate Conductor Joshua Sommerville, Assistant Conductor

Book, Music, and Lyrics by Andrew Lippa

SCENES & SONGS

I. UNBRE	AKABLE 1890s: Jane Addams	Woman 1 and Chorus
II. GAY W	ORD 1990s: Just a word	Man 1, Man 2, Woman 1, Woman 2, and Chorus
III. GO TO	WAR 1910s: The Great War	Young Soldier and Chorus
IV. ALREA	ADY DEAD1920s: Harvard University's Secret Court	Man 1, Man 2, and Chorus
V. JUST A	WOMAN1930s: Gertrude Stein	Woman 1 and Woman 2
VI. THE R	OOM NEXT DOOR1940s: Lem Billings and John F. Kennedy	Man 2 and Woman 2
VII. EXEC	UTIVE ORDER1950s: Dwight D. Eisenhower and Executive Orde	
VIII. ALL I	PEOPLE 1960s: Bayard Rustin	Man 1 and Chorus
IX. PURPI	LE MENACE 1970s: Dr. Charles Socarides	Man 2 and Chorus
X. 41	1980s: The AIDS crisis	Chorus
XI. SURV	/IVORS 1990s: Hope	Chorus
XII. SYLVI	A 2000s: The Legacy of Sylvia Rivera	Woman 1 and Chorus
XIII. GAY	WORD REPRISE2010s: Progress made	Man 1, Man 2, Woman 1, and Woman 2
XIV. GOO	D THINGS TAKE TIME	Man 1, Man 2, Woman 1, Woman 2, and Chorus

Unbreakable will be performed without an intermission.

2020s: The work continues...

CAST

Man 1	Joval Martin
Man 2	
Woman 1	Nova Y. Payton
Woman 2	Amy Broadbent
Young Soldier	Ēdgar Farfán
Swing	Zachary Barger
Dancers	Sean Cator, Craig Cipollini,
	James Ellzy, Jeffrey Hollands,
	Cole Jaconski, Darryl Pilate,
	Matt Williamson

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Flute	
Oboe	Alec Sherman
Clarinet and Saxophone	Laura Armstrong
Horn	Heidi Brown
Drums and Percussion	Bob Jenkins
Timpani and Percussion	Joanna Huling
Guitar, Banjo, and Ukulele	Erik Sharar
Harp	Vanessa Young
Piano	Theodore Guerrant
Keyboard	Raymond Rinaldo
Violin	Elise Blake
Cello	Peter Kibbe
Bass	Shawn Alger

The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC would like to give special thanks to Bob Dragoset for his gift in support of the Unbreakable orchestra.



WHO'S WHO



Amy Broadbent (Woman 1)

"With consummate poise, limpid clarity, and faultless intonation" (Washington Classical Review), Washington, DC-based soprano Amy Nicole Broadbent has garnered recognition as a dynamic singer, conductor, and composer. Her vocal repertoire spans from frequent interpretations of Bach, Handel, and other baroque champions through contemporary chamber music and art song. Amy has been a featured soloist for the Washington National Cathedral's webcast services. Amy won first place in the Audrey Rooney Bach Competition and the National Society of Arts and Letters' Winston Voice Competition. She also was a finalist and prizewinner for the New York Oratorio Society Competition at Carnegie Hall, the Annapolis Opera Competition, the Bethlehem Bach Competition, and the Franco-American Grand Concours Vocal Competition.

Amy is a founding member of the vocal quartet The Polyphonists. Her compositions and arrangements have been performed at venues including the Washington National Cathedral, Basilica of the National Shrine, the White House, and national television broadcasts. Amy currently serves as Assistant Conductor for the Victorian Lyric Opera Company, and Vocalist/Assistant Conductor of the Sea Chanters, the official chorus of the U.S. Navy. Amy holds degrees from the University of Maryland, College Park, and graduated in 2021 with a master's degree in choral conducting.



Nova Y. Payton (Woman 2)

Chances are that you've heard the amazing soprano voice of Nova Y. Payton, either on tours of Smokey's Joe's Café or 3 Mo' Divas, on television, or in countless regional theater productions around the country. Credits include The Amen Corner and Kiss Me, Kate at Shakespeare Theatre Company; Man of La Mancha (Aldonza) and A Night with Janis Joplin at 5 Avenue Theatre; Dreamgirls (Effie, Barrymore Award nomination) at Milwaukee Rep/Prince Music Theatre; Newsies, Smokey Joe's Café at Arena Stage; After Midnight, Ain't Misbehavin', Blackbeard, Assassins, Jelly's Last Jam, La Cage aux Folles, Defying Gravity: Making of a SuperNOVA, Dreamgirls (Helen Hayes Award nomination); and Hairspray (Motormouth Mabelle) all at Signature Theatre.

Additional credits include *Caroline, or Change* (Caroline, Helen Hayes nomination) at Round House Theatre; *A Year with Frog and Toad* at Imagination Stage; *Ragtime* (Sarah) at Ford's Theatre; *Elf the Musical* and *Godspell* at Olney Theatre; *The Watsons Go to Birmingham*, and *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying* (Miss Jones) at The Kennedy Center. AWARDS: Helen Hayes Award, Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Musical for *Hairspray*.



Andrew Lippa (Book/Music/Lyrics)

Andrew Lippa wrote the music and lyrics for *Big Fish*, directed and choreographed by Susan Stroman on Broadway. His oratorio, *I Am Harvey Milk*, was premiered by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus in October 2013. He wrote the Tony-nominated music and lyrics for the Broadway musical *The Addams Family*, as well as music for the Broadway production of Aaron Sorkin's *The Farnsworth Invention* and music and lyrics for *Asphalt Beach*. He wrote the book, music, and lyrics for *The Wild Party*, which won the Outer Critics Circle Award for best Off-Broadway musical, and Mr. Lippa won the 2000 Drama Desk Award for best music. He contributed three new songs to the Broadway production of *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (including "My New Philosophy" for Tony Award-winner Kristin

Chenoweth) and created all-new arrangements for the production. He also wrote the music and co-wrote the book for *john & jen*. Mr. Lippa is proud to have been music director for Kristin Chenoweth since 1999 for many of her concerts. Awards include a Tony and Grammy nomination, an Emmy Award for the Nickelodeon TV series *The Wonder Pets*, the Gilman/Gonzalez-Falla Theater Foundation Award, ASCAP's Richard Rodgers/New Horizons Award, The Drama Desk, and The Outer Critics Circle. A graduate of the University of Michigan, he was born in Leeds, England but grew up in suburban Detroit.



Joval Martin (Man 1)

Tenor Joval Martin studied classical voice at the Governor's School for the Arts in Virginia. At 17, he was a member of the Virginia Opera Association Chorus performing classical works like *Othello* and *Turandot*. Joval also performed in Virginia State Company's *A Christmas Carol* and their locally adapted *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*.

By day, Joval works in advertising as the Associate Director of Inclusivity, Equity, and Diversity Strategy for Wunderman Thompson North America. He brings a deep passion for social justice to clients every day on topics such as race, LGBTQIA+ rights, ableism, gender pay equity, and sustainability. His work includes household brands like Spotify, Coppertone, and Theraflu.

Joval continues to sing with GMCW and Rock Creek Singers.



Michael E. McGovern (Man 2)

Michael is an Assistant United States Attorney in the appellate division of the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. He has been a member of GMCW since 2016, performing in multiple cabarets and as a member of the dance company, 17th Street Dance. Prior roles with the Chorus include Waitress/Flight Attendant in Working and Miss Krumholtz in How to Succeed . . . He also performed as Dr. Fine/Dr. Madden in Next to Normal with Encore Theatre Company. Michael's musical theater training includes graduating with a theater concentration from Walnut Hill School for the Arts (Natick, MA) and receiving a BFA in Musical Theater Performance from the University of Michigan (where he later attended law school) ("Go Blue"). Following college he choreographed and staged a number of middle and high school productions, including a summer program at Interlochen Center for the Arts, Anything Goes, Working, and A Midsummer Night's Dream. He is extremely excited to be back on stage.



Edgar Farfán (Young Soldier)

Edgar joined GMCW in September 2021 as a Tenor 2, where he has participated in *The Holiday Show* and *Brand New Day* concerts. He has performed in musical theater productions such as *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Annie*, *Legally Blonde*, and *Spring Awakening*; as well as in folkloric concerts Raíces Veracruz-Ecuador, and Raíces Bicentenario — all of them in Mexico City where he is originally from. Edgar has participated as tenor in two *a cappella* ensembles, Coro Kanti, and InVoca. As he dedicates his professional career to not-for-profit educational projects; he has also studied acting, dancing, and singing in ArteStudio, one of the most recognized arts academies in Mexico for musical theater.

WHO'S WHO



Zachary Barger (Swing)

An accomplished chorister and baritone soloist, Zac has performed across the United States, including engagements at the Lincoln Center (New York), the Ellie Caulkins Opera House (Denver), Walt Disney World, and the iconic Red Rocks Amphitheater. Credits include Die Fledermaus (Straus), the title role in Red, Hot & Cole (Porter), L'incoronazione di Poppea (Monteverdi), The Tender Land (Copland), Spring Awakening (Sater), and Songs for a New World (Brown), as well as several opera choruses. Zac currently sings with Rock Creek Singers, and he most recently was a member of the Denver Gay Men's Chorus. He holds a Bachelor of Music from CU Boulder, where he studied under baritone Patrick Mason.



Solomon HaileSelassie (Stage Director)

Solomon HaileSelassie is a director, stage manager, designer, and filmmaker. Since 2015, he has served as GMCW's stage manager for our main stage concerts. He attended the Duke Ellington School of the Arts and Winston Salem State University where he trained in both vocal music and theater, New York Film Academy, and received his substantive professional training at The Studio Theatre and 2nd Stage.

His recent directing credits include The Passage; Phones; Lunch Dream; Girls; Waiting for Godot; The Shape of Things; Three in a Hallway (Ebenezer's Ghosts); [Almost] William Shakespeare's, National Lampoon's, Family Guy's, MTV's: The Real Thanksgiving Vacation at Macbeth's (working title); Punching People You Never Met; Georgia Avenue Nocturne; Hello | Brother; Sonata; Carrie:

The Musical (assistant director); The Rocky Horror Show (assistant director); and Twisted (assistant director).

Solomon was born and raised in DC and is proud to be a very-native son. He is the Resident Production Designer/Manager for the Library of Congress, the Resident Stage Manager for Longacre Lea, where he is a company member, and is the Founding Director of Artistic Collaboration for Annexus Theatre Company. He continues to be a non-equity professional stage manager because he is committed to maintaining access to high quality stage managers for small, underfunded, or under recognized professional theaters.



Theodore Guerrant (Principal Accompanist)

Now in his 39th season as GMCW's principal accompanist, "Dr. Teddy" is arguably the longest-tenured collaborative pianist for a single chorus within the entire GALA Choruses network. He has traveled with the Chorus to various cities across the United States, two Canadian provinces, three Scandinavian countries, and can be heard on many GMCW recordings. Dr. Teddy received degrees in keyboard performance from the University of Georgia (B.M. piano cum laude; M.F.A. harpsichord), the University of Wisconsin (M.M. piano), the University of Maryland (D.M.A. piano), and the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University (G.P.D. organ), and studied piano in Buriton, England, with Denise Lassimonne. Dr. Teddy is also organist-choirmaster at Christ Church Parish Kensington (Episcopal), accompanist for the National Philharmonic Chorale, and associate

director-accompanist for the Central Maryland Chorale. He also teaches on the staff of the University of Maryland School of Music as a coach-accompanist.

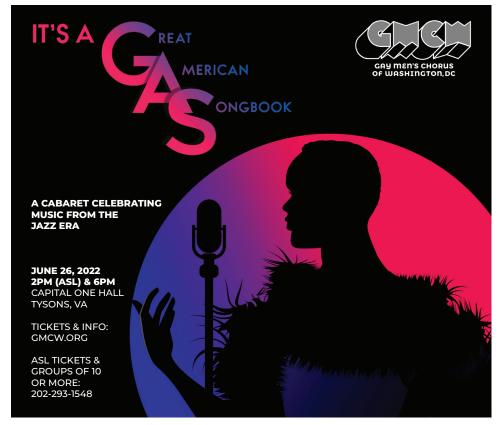


Craig Cipollini (Choreographer)

Craig began with GMCW in 2004 as a featured dancer. His background as a performer is primarily musical theater, having performed all over the East Coast and abroad. He toured with productions of *A Chorus Line* and *42nd Street*, in addition to many regional, summer stock, and dinner theater credits. He was also a member of the DC Cowboys Dance Company, performing with the group all over the United States, in Toronto, and in Budapest, Hungary. He also performed with the group when they appeared on NBC-TV's *America's Got Talent* where the group reached the Top 40.

Craig has worked extensively as a director and choreographer. Some musicals he has directed and/or choreographed include *Cabaret*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *The Will Rogers Follies*, *Annie*, *Hair*,

Carousel, Sugar Babies, Anything Goes, 42nd Street, and West Side Story, to name a few. He directed and choreographed One Night in New York! at the 2013 Capital Fringe Festival where the show won Best Overall Production and Best Choreography. He has been GMCW's resident choreographer since 2006. He directed and choreographed GMCW's productions of The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, The Rocky Horror Show, and Xanadu, as well as Men In Tights: A Pink Nutcracker (2010), Seven, Divas, A Gay Man's Guide to Broadway, and That '80s Show. He holds bachelor's degrees in theater and art/visual communications, a masters degree in arts management, and is also a freelance illustrator.



ARTISTIC



Thea Kano, Artistic Director

Dr. Thea Kano, a Northern California native, became active in the arts at an early age. She started playing piano at age four and began taking ballet soon after, a background that has a strong influence on her conducting. Dr. Kano's graceful yet commanding presence on stage and the robust performances she obtains from her musicians have basis in her formal training as a dancer.

Dr. Kano has conducted an extensive range of repertoire with several ensembles, including the Angeles Chorale, The Washington Chorus, and in 2014 assumed the position of artistic director of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC, for which she also directs its acclaimed ensembles Rock Creek Singers and Potomac Fever. In addition, she oversees GMCW's outreach efforts, including its GenOUT program. A champion of music education, Dr. Kano has devoted countless hours

to students of all ages and backgrounds. She believes in the power of music to nurture and believes that classical music should be accessible to all. Dr. Kano's substantial experience in this arena includes: building partnerships with organizations serving disenfranchised adults, hosting workshops with at-risk youth, leading youth arts programs of many sizes, as well as directing award-winning high school and collegiate choruses.

In addition to her work with GMCW, Dr. Kano founded the New York City Master Chorale in 2005 and served as the artistic director until spring 2019. The 80-member group is recognized as one of the finest vocal ensembles in New York City and has performed to sold-out audiences on two continents. Dr. Kano is known for her expressiveness and dynamic conducting, and the Chorale has been praised for its balance and richness in tone in performing a variety of musical styles. Under her direction, the Chorale made its debuts at Lincoln Center (2006) and Carnegie Hall (2009), as well as its international debut in Paris, France (2011).

Dr. Kano has prepared choruses for Zubin Mehta, Esa-Pekka Solonen, Emil de Cou, David Hayes, Craig Fleischer, Victor Vener, and Paul Salamunovich. Dr. Kano's various ensembles have performed at the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Disney Hall, Église Saint-Sulpice (Paris), and on the National Mall for the 2009 inaugural ceremonies.

Dr. Kano received her doctorate in choral conducting from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2004. At UCLA, Dr. Kano studied under Donald Neuen, her professional mentor. For her dissertation on Duruflé's *Requiem*, Dr. Kano completed research with L'Association Duruflé in Paris and studied privately with Paul Salamunovich. Dr. Kano holds a Master of Music degree from UCLA and a bachelor's degree in choral music education and piano performance from Arizona State University. Dr. Kano speaks French and actively conducts ensembles in New York City, Paris, and Washington, DC.





C. Paul Heins, Associate Conductor

C. Paul Heins joined the GMCW artistic team as associate conductor in the 2014 – 2015 season. Dr. Heins's principal role with GMCW is directing the GenOUT Youth Chorus, an outreach ensemble for LGBTQ+ and allied youth founded in 2015. Under Dr. Heins's leadership, GenOUT has grown from its inaugural class of nine singers to a current enrollment of 23 singers representing more than two dozen schools in DC, Maryland, and Virginia. Over the past six years, more than 120 students from over 60 schools have participated in GenOUT Youth Chorus and camps, and notable performance venues have included the Kennedy Center, the Library of Congress, the Washington National Cathedral, and the White House for President Obama. In addition to its regular performances with GMCW, GenOUT's collaborations have included Nashville's Major Minors, The Musicianship's Washington Youth Chorus, The Washington Chorus,

NYC's Youth Pride Chorus, and the Children's Chorus of Washington.

Dr. Heins's previous appointments include Georgetown University (Concert Choir director), the Lesbian & Gay Chorus of Washington (director), the Washington Master Chorale (assistant director), Washington Men's Camerata (accompanist/associate conductor), and the College of William & Mary (interim choir director). He was musical director for three GMCW musicals (*Ruthless, When Pigs Fly*, and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*). Dr. Heins is a frequent guest pianist, flutist, and conductor in the DC area. He was trained in piano and flute at Bowling Green State University (B.Mus.), flute at the University of Maryland (M.Mus.), and choral conducting at the University of Maryland (D.M.A.). His principal teachers have been Edward Maclary, Patrick Walders, and Mark S. Kelly (conducting); William Montgomery and Judith Bentley (flute); and Virginia Marks and Victoria Harris (piano). His doctoral work centered around Lukas Foss's cantata, *The Prairie*. Dr. Heins has presented at conferences of the American Choral Directors Association and Chorus America, and has served as guest clinician for DCPS music festivals and teacher workshops.



Joshua Sommerville, Assistant Conductor

A native of Gaithersburg, MD, Joshua Sommerville is a singer, pianist, music director, and composer who graduated from Towson University with a Bachelor of Science in Music. Joshua started his music journey at the age of five cultivating his skills at the piano. He often states, "if it weren't for my father, who taught me the only song he knew on the piano, my first piano teacher who taught me how to read music, and my mother, who refused to let me quit playing piano, I would not be where I am today."

He began his professional career as a musician, choir director, and singer at the tender age of 14. Throughout his musical journey, he has had the privilege of working with many esteemed artists like the late Dr. Walter Turnbull (Director of the Harlem Boys Choir), Dr. Ysaÿe Barnwell (of the Grammy Award-winning vocal group Sweet Honey

in the Rock), Stanley Thurston, Bill Colosimo, Dr. Karen Kennedy, Dr. Joyce Garrett, Patrick Lundy, Richard Odom, Dr. Stephen Holmes, Dr. Marco Merrick, and Twinkie Clark, among others.

He has founded three semi-professional groups: His W.I.L. Community Choir, Unique Sounds of Love, and To Be Continued Youth Choir. Each group has been recognized and admired for their ability to sing multiple genres of music as well as their enticing stage presence. He also created the acclaimed workshop, How Much Do You Love It?, that has traveled to Bermuda, Italy, Guatemala, Germany, and Africa.

Joshua is the Minister of Music at Hall United Methodist Church of Glen Burnie. He also tours as music director for world-renowned choreographer Rennie Harris, and actively music directs productions within the private and public school systems. He joined the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC as Assistant Conductor in December 2019, and is very excited to also conduct Seasons of Love.

PROGRAM NOTES

UNBREAKABLE (Jane Addams)

Jane Addams (1860 – 1935) is primarily remembered for founding Chicago's Hull House, a community center (or "settlement house") where middle class white women would live among and serve the social and education needs of the urban poor, many recent immigrants. A strong believer in what she termed social democracy, Addams's approach to inequality involved methodical fact-gathering and nurturing personal connections, contributing to the then-nascent fields of sociology and social work. A pacifist in the face of WWI jingoism, she co-founded the ACLU and worked closely with the NAACP. She was the first American woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

A lesser-known fact, still hotly contested in some quarters: Jane Addams lived fairly openly with female partners, including her Hull House co-founder and, in later years, a wealthy benefactor with whom she purchased property. Addams's life provides an instructive study in how we might understand sexualities that pre-date our current terminology and cultural frameworks. We do not have "proof" that Jane Addams was a "lesbian"— notably a term that did not even exist for the first decades of her life. We can see, however, that she intentionally concentrated her energies towards the women in her life and, through her work, provided meaningful alternatives to marriage at a time when few existed.

— Program notes by April Sizemore-Barber

ALREADY DEAD (Cyril Wilcox and the Harvard Secret Court)

On May 13, 1920, Cyril Wilcox died by suicide. The night before his death he told his brother, George, of his affair with another man. Cyril's confession and suicide led to an 80 year-long secret at Harvard. After some investigation, including assaulting Cyril's lover to obtain information, George was convinced that Harvard was harboring a network of homosexual students. He took this information to Dean Greenough who, alongside Harvard's President Abbott Lawrence Lowell, formed a five-man tribunal which they called "The Court" instead of the traditional student and faculty tribunal.

The Court was intent on finding out who had done what in Harvard dormitories. They wanted names, not just of homosexuals at Harvard, but also of any men who knowingly associated with homosexuals. They interviewed faculty, students, and even community members. The impact of this court was widespread. Faculty lost their jobs and students were expelled.

The actions of the secret court were largely hidden until 2002, when a student reporter discovered hidden files and brought the story to light. Despite public efforts requesting that Harvard grant posthumous degrees to the students impacted by the secret court, Harvard has done very little to acknowledge the misdeeds of the faculty and the impact it had on the larger community.

Program notes by Keygan Miller

JUST A WOMAN (Gertrude Stein)

Gertrude Stein was born on February 3, 1874 in Allegheny, PA to German Jewish parents and grew up in Oakland, CA, an experience immortalized by the quote in her 1937 book *Everybody's Autobiography*, "there is no there there." Orphaned at age 14, she moved to Baltimore and eventually attended the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine for several years, where she experienced her gay awakening through a love triangle with two female friends (which later became the basis of one of the earliest coming out stories in her 1903 novel, *Q.E.D.*). In 1903, she moved to Paris with her brother Leo, where she amassed an impressive art collection and ran a salon for Modernist artists including Pablo Picasso, Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Henri Matisse. In 1907, she met her life partner Alice B. Toklas, who became the subject of Stein's most famous work, *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*, which catapulted her into US literary superstardom when it was published in 1933. Not even World War II could displace Stein and Toklas from their home in Paris, though their safety was guaranteed largely by Stein's friendship with Vichy government official Bernard Faÿ. Stein died on July 27, 1946 at the age of 72 after surgery for stomach cancer.

- Program notes by Nico MacDougall

THE ROOM NEXT DOOR (Lem Billings)

Kirk LeMoyne "Lem" Billings (April 15, 1916 – May 28, 1981) was John F. Kennedy's best friend and confidant. They met at Choate Rosemary Hall, Wallingford, CT while working on the yearbook, and bonded over their contempt of the traditions of the elite preparatory school.

From backpacking through Europe, roommates at Princeton and Harvard, presidential campaigns, White House bill signings, Lem had always been there for Jack. And Jack was the ally who made it clear that this tall guy with a high-pitched effeminate voice and mannerisms was his best friend. Everyone had to get in line with that at a time when homosexuality was criminal. Even Jackie Kennedy, who adored Lem, couldn't set Lem up with Greta Garbo to distance him from JFK!

So close were the two that Lem never recovered from JFK's death. He spiraled into drugs and depression. He later dedicated his life to the Kennedys and was everything from godfather to pallbearer. The only position he accepted in the JFK administration was on the board of trustees of the National Cultural Center, which later became the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

- Program notes by Pradipta Banerjee

EXECUTIVE ORDER (Dwight D. Eisenhower and Executive Order 10450)

This movement captures the atmosphere of fear — The Lavender Scare — surrounding President Eisenhower's issuance of Executive Order 10450 in 1953. It was also the time of The Red Scare, and Senator Joseph McCarthy explicitly linked Communists and homosexuals as subversive. Entitled "Security Requirements for Government Employment," the Executive Order added sexuality to the criteria used to determine suitability for federal employment and charged federal agencies and the Civil Service Commission with investigating federal employees to determine whether they posed security risks as "sexual perverts." Thousands of LGBTQ+ federal employees lost their jobs. One of them was Franklin Kameny, a World War II veteran who was fired from his dream job as an astronomer for the U.S. Army Map Service. Kameny fought his firing all the way to the Supreme Court, which refused to hear his case. His experience launched him on a life of activism for gay rights. He organized the first gay rights protest in front of the White House in 1965. In 1968 he coined the phrase "Gay Is Good," modeled after "Black Is Beautiful," to reflect that homosexuality is not inferior to heterosexuality. In 1973, he succeeded in having the American Psychiatric Association remove its classification of homosexuality as an illness. For his lifelong work, GMCW honored Kameny with its Harmony Award in 2006. In 2011, Rock Creek Singers sang "Make Them Hear You" at Kameny's memorial service at the Carnegie Library in Washington, DC, which marked the transformation of that song into GMCW's anthem.

- Program notes by Mark Hegedus

ALL PEOPLE (Bayard Rustin)

Bayard Rustin (1912 – 1987) was an African American leader in both the Civil Rights and the Gay Rights movements. He studied the techniques of nonviolent civil resistance with the leaders of the Gandhian movement, and brought those strategies to these campaigns. Rustin's obituary in the New York Times quoted him: "The principal factors which influenced my life are 1) nonviolent tactics; 2) constitutional means; 3) democratic procedures; 4) respect for human personality; 5) a belief that all people are one." He was a primary organizer of the 1963 March on Washington, but kept to less public roles so as not to complicate the movement. The March was planned to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. He drilled off-duty police officers to serve as marshals, and bus captains to direct traffic. Rustin scheduled the podium speakers, and can be seen standing near Dr. King in photos at the Lincoln Memorial. In the 1980s, he became a public advocate and speaker as a gay activist. He even adopted his young lover/partner, Walter Naegle, to give their relationship legal protections in a world where marriage was not allowed. In 2013 President Barack Obama posthumously awarded Rustin the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

— Program notes by Jack Reiffer

PURPLE MENACE (Charles Socarides)

Dr. Charles Socarides was a well-known psychiatrist and psychoanalyst in the '70s, '80s and '90s who believed that homosexuality was a treatable condition, even to the point of "converting" someone to heterosexuality. And while Socarides didn't invent the idea of conversion therapy, his influence continues to endanger and harm the lives of LGBTQ+ people.

Socarides appeared on numerous news programs like *Dateline*, 60 Minutes, and *Larry King Live* to discuss his work. In his writings, public appearances, and in his private practice, (continued on next page)

PROGRAM NOTES

(continued)

Socarides argued that homosexuality was a "neurotic adaptation" in men caused by absent fathers and overly doting mothers. He also claimed to have helped 35 percent of his gay patients become heterosexual.

In 1992, Dr. Socarides helped found the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH). The primary mission of the organization was "to make effective psychological therapy available to all homosexual men and women who seek change." Dr. Socarides maintained these dangerous positions long after the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality as a form of mental illness in 1973.

Socarides died in 2005, survived by four children from his four marriages. His oldest son, Richard, is openly gay and served as senior advisor on gay and lesbian issues for the Clinton administration.

- Program notes by Brent Almond

41 (The AIDS Crisis)

It's impossible to encapsulate the effect that the AIDS crisis had on our community. If a third of us were to stand up and exit the room, we could begin to demonstrate what it felt like to lose so many. But AIDS was more insidious than that. It robbed many of so much before it cut their lives short. Some were disowned by their families, rejected by their faith groups and the communities where they grew up, and their government; some lost their jobs and health benefits; some lost their partners in a time before marriage equality; most lost their health in their last days, in declines that could feel both agonizingly long yet somehow mercifully short.

GMCW started as a community chorus — part of a burgeoning queer choral movement bringing LGBTQ+ folks together artistically and socially. The GMCW Chorus Care Corps started during that time as members needed help with everything from getting to medical appointments to taking care of their homes — and in some cases even housing members who had no place else to go. We helped each other hold on, until folks couldn't hold on any longer. And then this family planned their funerals. At one performance, the Artistic Director announced a change in the program — that he would be singing a solo instead of the listed Chorus member who had died that week. And that period of profound loss lasted for 15 long years — until hope arrived in the form of an effective treatment. Since then, advances in prevention, care, and treatment have transformed HIV and AIDS from a "death sentence" to a "chronic illness" — though we should remember that it still disproportionately affects people of color, those living in poverty, and other marginalized communities, which reflects the deeply-rooted inequalities that persist in our country and throughout the world.

— Program notes by Chipper Dean

SYLVIA (Sylvia Rivera)

The world was not kind to Sylvia Rivera. The LGBTQ+ community was not kind. In 1973, Rivera participated in the Gay Pride Parade but was not allowed to speak, despite the amount of work and advocacy she had done. She grabbed the microphone anyway, telling the spectators and other marchers, "If it wasn't for the drag queen, there would be no gay liberation movement. We're the front-liners." She was booed off the stage. Just a few years earlier at Stonewall Inn, she had not thrown the first Molotov cocktail at the police (a long-enduring myth), but she did throw the second stating, "I'm not missing a minute of this — it's the revolution!"

Along with Marsha P. Johnson, Rivera started the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR) around 1971. The group became one of the first spaces to organize on issues facing the transgender community in NYC and the country. And 25 years after being booed off the stage, Rivera would be Grand Marshal for Pride. She'd say, "the movement had put me on the shelf, but they took me down and dusted me off...Still, it was beautiful. I walked down 58th Street and the young ones were calling from the sidewalk, 'Sylvia, Sylvia, thank you, we know what you did.'"

— Program notes by Sam Brinton



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Jon Schmidt Mario Sengco Evan Shaver April Sizemore-Barber Josh Smith Lamar Smith (SL) Brandon Steele Jeb Stenhouse Jason Suggs Matthew Teubert Kevin Thomason Santos E. Torres James Turner Kevin Webster Joseph Wenninger Steven West James W. Williams

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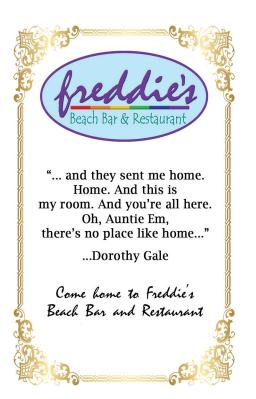
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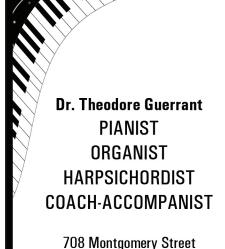
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Special thanks to the Lincoln Theatre team.

IN MEMORIAM

We remember our members who have been lost to us over the years. Their spirits live on with us and we honor their memory. Respectfully, we request if you know of anyone whose name has been omitted from this list, please contact us at 202-293-1548 so that we may continue to celebrate and honor the contributions of all of our members.

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ABOUT US

The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC (GMCW) sings to inspire equality and inclusion with musical performances and education promoting justice and dignity for all.

OVERVIEW

GMCW is the largest LGBTQ+ chorus in the nation's capital. We are a renowned performance group. Since 1981, we've performed shows nationally, internationally, and athome in Washington, DC. To date, we have 250+ singing members, four select ensembles, a youth chorus, over 500 donors, and an annual audience of 10,000+. Our mission is to use music to promote equality, achieve justice, and overcome our differences. Over the last 40 years, we've put on numerous shows and done hours and hours of community outreach. We've sung and danced our hearts out around the country, including our Equality Tours in 2017, 2018, and 2019. We've been around the world, too, including stops in Cuba, Iceland, and Ukraine. We've sung for the Clintons, the Bushes, the Obamas, and the Bidens. Alongside Alan Cumming, Carol Channing, Chita Rivera, and Angela Lansbury. We've visited many prestigious venues, including the Kennedy Center, the White House, and Carnegie Hall, just to name a few.

HARMONY AWARDS

The Harmony Award is GMCW's highest honor. The awards are presented by the Chorus's Board of Directors to individuals and organizations from the community, and an individual from within the Chorus family. Recipients include:

Individuals from the Community:

Peter D. Rosenstein, LGBTQ+ community activist, 2004
David Catania, DC Councilmember, 2005
Frank Kameny, Gay rights movement pioneer, 2006
Adrian Fenty, DC Mayor, 2007
Noi Chudnoff*, business proprietor and arts patron, 2008
The Right Reverend V. Gene Robinson, Episcopal bishop, 2009
John Berry, Director, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, 2010
Barney Frank, U.S. Congressman, Massachusetts, 2012
Eric Schaeffer, Signature Theatre Artistic Director, 2014
Kevin Jennings, GLSEN founder & Obama "safe schools" appointee, 2015
Marsha Pearson, GMCW founder, 2016
Muriel Bowser, DC Mayor, 2018
Wendy Rieger, NBC4-TV news anchor, 2019
Phil Mendelson, DC Council Chairperson, 2022

The Mautner Project, national Lesbian health organization, 2004

Organizations:

Holland & Knight, international law firm, 2005
Food and Friends, food and nutrition service providers, 2006
Metro DC PFLAG, education and advocacy organization, 2007
SMYAL, 2008
Washington DC Metropolitan Police Department's Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit, 2009
Immigration Equality, 2010
Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, 2011
Washington Blade, 2012
Team DC, 2014
Williams Institute, 2015
National Center for Transgender Equality, 2016
NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ Journalists, 2017
Whitman-Walker Health, 2018
Casa Ruby and NBC Out, 2019
Metro Weekly, 2022

Individuals from the Chorus family:

Steve "Soph" Herman, 2004 Gary Regan and Roger Bergstrom, 2005 Carl Baldwin & Gary Turner and David Streit, 2006 Phil Rogerson, 2007 Laurence Rosen, 2008 Michael Baker, 2009 Jeff Buhrman, 2010 Greg Kubiak, 2011 Mark Hennen, 2012 Joe Vignali, 2013 Tom Nichols & Dan Chadburn, 2014 Michael E. Hill, 2015 Christopher Grieder & Stuart Kopperman, 2016 John Moran* and Jack Reiffer, 2017 Marcus Brown and Rob Hall, 2018 Charles Berardesco, 2019 Robert T. Boaz*, 2022

CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE

Circle of Excellence Awards are chosen annually by members of GMCW to recognize the outstanding contributions made by members of the Chorus. These awards honor those individuals who have exemplified the spirit of camaraderie, brother- and sisterhood and community in the Chorus and whose work has had lasting impact over many years.

1991

Fred Boykin
Jeffrey Buhrman
Tom Dudley*
Steve Herman
Jim Holloway
Steve Maddox*
Dr. Jim Richardson
Ron Sabacek
B. J. Sobus
Bruce Trinkley
Everett Waldo
Bob Wonneberger
Michael Ziskind

1992

Michael Bohn Eric Korpon Darrell Netherton Harry Powers Michael Rivard Rick Rosendall David Sisson Duward Sumner

1993

Craig Bowen* Peter Brayton Phil Rogerson

1994

Rod Fiorito Scott Pierce* David Streit Robert Wheeler

1995

Darrell Lewis Len Padgett Jim Peterson

1996

Michael Baker Roger Bergstrom Dick Dorr Dennis Swick*

1997

Jack Gerard Charlie Merk Michael Milano Gary Regan

1998

Kevin Doss Robb Rexroth Laurence A. Rosen

1000

Jerry Carpenter Bob Dragoset Thom Gibb

2000

Christopher Grieder Gary Turner Joe Vignali Marvin Weeks

2001

Joe Cannon Teddy Guerrant Steven Haber John Perkins Michael B. Smith

2002

Carl Baldwin Barry W. Bugg Michael Cunningham Dan Patton Todd Paul

2003

Tom DiGiovanni Rick Johnson Kathy McGee Chuck Walker

2004

Scott Button Robert Klein Jerry Lee Harold Lewis Jack Reiffer

2005

Jeff Van Luyn Stuart Kopperman Edward P. Oseroff

2006

David Bielenberg Joe Canter Bill Cutter Matt Komornik Barrett Whitener

2007

Russ Capps Rob Hall Marsha Holloman Paul Leavitt Jim Murphy

2008

Greg Kubiak Rob Driggers Michael Hill

2009

Chip Crews Mark Hennen John O'Brien

2010

Jay Ball Thea Kano Steve Pflasterer Andy Van Etten

2011

Sherman Blow Robert T. Boaz Peter Fox Andrew Harmon

2012

Craig Cipollini Ron Norberg John "JQ" Quiñones Shannon Rozner

2013

Joe Bloomer Marcus Brown Sean Robinson

2014

Timothy E. Allmond Raymond Burditt Mary Scott Ryan L. Williams

2015

Emérito Amaro-Carambot Larry Cohen John-Paul Hayworth Rob Serpa, Jr.

2016

Chris Asaro Rick Davis Suzette Derrevere James Ellzy Rob Neighbour Lyn VanNoy

2017

Jarrod Bennett Chipper Dean Jay Gilliam Matt Graf

2018

Howland Hartley Mark Hegedus Dan Kaufman Mario Sengco

2019

Jim Arshem*
Corey Bent
Romm Gatongay
Matt Holland
Mark Klein
Samilet Lee
John U. Robinson

2020

Ben Harris Derrick Jones Betsy Libretta Kevin Thomason Bernard Vicary

202

Michael Dumlao Jim Gruschus C. Paul Heins Jim Madigan Raymond Rinaldo Bryce Weems Micah Yarbrough

^{*} posthumously awarded

OVATION SOCIETY

The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC's Ovation Society is an initiative that recognizes and honors those generous individuals and families who have made planned gifts to the Chorus.

If you have already included GMCW in your estate plans, please let us know so that we can include you as a member of the Ovation Society. If not, we hope you will consider joining this special group by including GMCW in your will, as a beneficiary of a retirement account, or by setting up a charitable trust. Planned gifts can greatly reduce the amount of tax paid by your estate at the time of your death and often do not change the amount that would go to your family and friends.

While your attorney or accountant can provide you with more information, GMCW has several corporate sponsors — both financial planners and attorneys — who specialize in LGBTQ+ estate issues. We are happy to share this resource list with you upon request. As a member of the Ovation Society, you will be invited to attend special events and receptions especially for Ovation Society members.

For further information about GMCW's Ovation Society, or if you are interested in learning more about the many ways you can include GMCW in your plans, please contact Executive Director Justin Fyala, at 202-293-1548 or jfyala@gmcw.org.

GMCW Ovation Society

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David & Eric Akridge

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Michael Brinkman

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Reconstructionist Community

In a world where religious leaders and their organizations have too often embodied the oppression and rejection that many of us have suffered, a growing number of synagogues, congregations, and other faith-based organizations are welcoming and celebrating LGBTQ+ persons. We proudly list them here as our **PARTNERS IN HARMONY**. We recommend them to any who are looking for a faith community to call home. Visit gmcw.org for links to all of these faith-based organizations.

Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church
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All Souls Episcopal Church
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Augustana Lutheran Church
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Foundry United Methodist Church

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Hope United Church of Christ

Immanuel Presbyterian Church

First Congregational United Church of Christ

Friends Meeting of Washington (Quakers)

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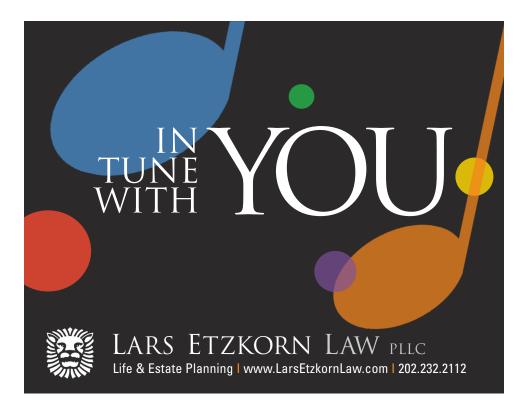
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Westminster Presbyterian Church

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#Me Too #We Too

Standing in solidarity with persons who have experienced childhood sexual abuse or incest, wherever they are in the world

"Every person who experiences sexual abuse as a child has their own way to imagine they're responsible for what happened to them. Gay men who are abused commonly imagine that just being gay made us to blame for sexual abuse by the adults in our lives."

Raymond S. Hoffman, M.D. Board Certified Psychiatrist Fellow of the International Psychoanalytic Association Annapolis and Easton, MD rshmdfipa@gmail.com





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In 2011 the Johnson & Johnson Consumer Health CARE WITH PRIDE program was created to openly champion love, equality and care for the LGBTQIA community. Ten years later our mission continues, having raised more than \$1 million for LGBTQIA advocacy organizations and is more important than ever. Join us at carewithpride.com



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